

M. T. MARTIN, Proprietor.

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of Christ.

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1878.

NO. 29.

OBITUARIES.

Mr. Whitfield Dupuy.

It has been requested to give a notice of the life of the much lamented Whitfield Dupuy, and especially that part in which he was engaged in the missionary work, and to undertake the task with almost undivided reverence. For though, his father was the older of the two, though he had been trying to leave for a short time before he became acquainted with Bro. Dupuy, yet he feels that his associations with him were of the most valuable and profitable nature, and that he should be permitted to say a few words in his obituary notice.

Bro. Dupuy was born in Shelby County, Tenn., May 1st, A. D. 1829. He was raised principally in Lafayette County. His parents were Missions Baptists. His father was a minister of the gospel, and he had a great deal among the people of that county.

One of the first of his memoirs obtained in Christ at the early age of seven and eight years (as his father has often heard him state). He joined the Missionary Baptist Church at the age of seventeen, and he was impressed to preach, he bent his mind toward a preparation for the ministry. He was called to the ministry by the Holy Spirit, and he was a most excellent man, as well as a zealous and talented minister.

Bro. Dupuy preached his first sermon on the first day of May, 1841, when he was just twenty-one years of age. His father has not been able to gather much information in reference to his early life in the ministry, from the time of his preaching this first sermon, up to the fall of 1842, when he joined the Board of Domestic Missions for the Cold Water Association, for the purpose of engaging his services to them, to labor, within his sphere, during the coming year.

When an incident occurred which the writer thinks well relating to the life of the old brethren of the Board, he will not fail to mention it. He was called to the Board of Domestic Missions for the Cold Water Association, for the purpose of engaging his services to them, to labor, within his sphere, during the coming year.

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ter, and constrains me to exclaim, in the language of the Redeemer: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few."

"I have traveled about two thousand three hundred and forty miles; given forty-five lectures; preached one hundred and seventeen sermons; delivered thirty-six exhortations; visited one hundred and four families; assisted in ordaining two deacons; constituted two churches; administered the Lord's Supper once; ordained one minister, and baptized nineteen. At the meetings I have attended, there have been about sixty-five professions; I have attended nine protracted meetings."

In the early part of the year, 1847, the Board met at Hernando, at which time the (at the earnest request of Bro. Dupuy) writer went with him to that meeting. On that occasion Bro. Dupuy took the liberty to bring the writer's name before the Board, meeting upon his being employed to ride and preach with him, arguing that it was the Apostolic mode of sending them out, "two and two" together, and that ministers were so scarce in the Association, that in the protracted meeting season, he had often had to close meetings (with good prospects) for want of ministerial help; upon which the Board took the matter into consideration. But, in looking at the pledges made by the churches, they found that the amount pledged was hardly sufficient to support one missionary in the field. Bro. Dupuy then suggested that the Board employ the writer. He objected upon the ground that Bro. Dupuy was the man, and he could not, under the circumstances, accept the appointment. About this time the old veteran, Dr. Doherty (then one of the Board) arose and said (with his usual zeal) that he had faith in the churches that they would sustain the Board in any action it might take in the premises. There he moved that they employ both, to which they agreed. And here, the writer might be allowed to say, as he has often said, was the beginning of what good may have been accomplished by his feeble efforts in the ministry, for which he ever feels grateful to Bro. Dupuy.

Soon after this meeting of the Board, we commenced our work of arranging appointments for the season. At the commencement of the year (as reported by Bro. Dupuy), he was much discouraged by the unkindness of the part of the brethren, in consequence of which, very little good was accomplished for a time. But during the months of July and August, we held several protracted meetings, some of which were in very destitute neighborhoods, where I trust, through the blessings of God, has resulted in great good.

In the latter part of August of this year, he with his colleague went into the Mississippi Bottom, where they held a meeting of three weeks, with the Sandover church, resulting in great good to the church and surrounding country. Nineteen were added to the church during the meeting. A few days after he left the Bottom, he was attacked with the Typhus congestive fever, with which he was confined to his room for a month. During part of the time his attending physician (who was his brother) despaired of his life. From that time until the Association he occasionally had chills. His ill health so disqualified him for ministerial labors that, from the first of September until the Association, in October following, he was unable to do any work in the ministry. I mention here (as evidence of the esteem in which his brethren held him) that, during his illness they sent messengers from many parts of the Association, to inquire after his health. He reported this year: "Traveled one hundred and ninety-five miles; given twenty-six lectures; preached seventy-eight sermons; delivered twenty-nine exhortations; visited one hundred and two families; assisted in ordaining one deacon; administered the Lord's Supper twice; baptized seven." At the meetings which he had attended there had been about twenty-one professions.

In the year 1848, he was continued as missionary (for, by this time many thought his presence, in the bounds of the Association, was necessary to its life and well-being). During this year there were some of the most extensive revivals in connection with his labors, ever witnessed (up to that time), within the bounds of the Association. There were two churches organized this year.

1849 found him occupying his same field, with his usual weapons—prayer and the Bible, which is the sword of the Spirit. The Board engaged the services of Bro. S. Halaburton to labor with him from the middle of July, till October 22nd, the time of the meeting of the Association. His labors

were abundantly blessed this year. In the early part of this year, the Chulahoma church (being without a pastor) petitioned the Board for, and obtained his services for one Sabbath in the month. His labors with the church were signally blessed to the conversion of sinners, and the upbuilding of the church. To give his own language: "I have rarely known revivals so general; for we have scarcely held a meeting of days at any place, at which we have not had, to some extent, a revival."

At all the meetings I have attended, there have been seventy-five professions. By reference to the minutes of this year, the writer finds in the report of the Executive Board, this statement: "Of the labors and success in the six years past, Bro. Dupuy's services were secured in capacity of Missionary, whose labors have continued up to the present time, embracing the intervals of 1844-49. Traveled twelve thousand five hundred and twenty-two miles; sermons, six hundred and twenty-eight; lectures, two hundred and eighty-one; visited families, six hundred and sixty-seven; ordained deacons, twenty; administered the Lord's Supper, sixteen; delivered exhortations, one hundred and fifty; attended protracted meetings, thirty-five; constituted ten churches (an average of almost two per year); baptized ninety-one; about five hundred conversions." Thus ends the labors of six years of wearisome toil.

But resting through the winter months, he came forth full of vigor, and at the request of the Board, gathered up his saddle-pockets, mounted his horse and marches for his field of labor. During this year, 1850, the writer would state that, from his recollection, Bro. Dupuy's success was as usual, though he cannot give particulars for want of minutes.

Early in the next year, 1851, the Board, feeling that it could not dispense with his services without great detriment to the cause of missions within the bounds of the Association, secured his services again. But the writer (for want of the record) cannot give any particulars of his labors, only to say he gave, as usual, satisfaction, in reference to his success. This year ended his work as missionary, within the bounds of the Cold Water Association; having labored with unremitting zeal, and with entire satisfaction to the brethren within his bounds for a term of eight years, during which time, he had traveled about sixteen thousand and two hundred miles; preached eight hundred and eight sermons; visited eight hundred and seventy-two families; delivered two hundred and eighty lectures; and two hundred and forty exhortations, together with many other labors: such as baptizing, constituting churches, etc. Having received for this long term of years, and incessant labors, not more than \$1200, an average of \$150 per year. The vast amount of good accomplished (under God) by his labors, during these long years, eternity alone will reveal. The Association, at her meeting in October, 1851, gave to him the parting hand, with hearts overflowing with sorrow, on account of having to give up her long-cherished missionary, to go to another field.

In 1852, he went to the Panola Association, taking with him as a partner for life, a Miss Judith I. Wall, of Panola county, Miss., (having married her the year previous). And I may be at liberty to state in this connection that she proved to be unto him truly a wife, and not only a wife, but a minister's wife—a helper to him in the gospel. God gave to them, in course of time, five lovely children—four daughters and one son, which the hearts of the fond parents accept as blessings from God. But in His own good time God reached forth his hand, and took to Himself one, and another, and another, until He had taken them all. Then it was that Bro. Dupuy gave to the world an example of submission, of perfect resignation, rarely equalled by mortal man.

So far as regards his ministerial labors, within the bounds of the Panola Association, we are not so well informed. I have written to several of its members, clerks, deacons, etc., but have not been able to get as much information, in reference to his labors with those brethren, as I had hoped to obtain, when I commenced writing these pages. But the writer knows enough of his work and success during the twenty-five years that he ministered to the people within the bounds of the Panola Association in holy things, to state that his labors were incessant and earnest. He labored for three or four churches as pastor nearly all the time, and for many of the strongest and most influential churches within

her bounds, and with as much success as any pastor that ever labored for them; for he baptized many members into the fellowship of these churches. His custom was to visit often the members of his flocks, as also the members of his congregation; to converse with, and pray for, them; so that much of his success was attributed to his earnest efforts in private families. He was a man of devout prayer, never allowing himself to go into the pulpit to preach without spending a short time in secret prayer, that he might commit himself to God, asking for help to preach His holy Word. The writer will never forget that, about a month before his death, he and I went to his appointment at the old Union church in Panola county. He proposed that we take a walk in the grove. When we had reached there, he remarked: "Brother, I am still trying to keep up my old custom—trying to pray before trying to preach." He turned to his tree and I turned to mine. He prayed, I judged, from the sermon he preached. I did not, could not pray; my thoughts were too busy running back over the past; how could I pray, when looming up before me were the hundreds of miles he had gone to the groves, sat upon logs or on the ground, near some church house, log cabin, or bush arbor, and there talked over our plans, as how best we might (under God), accomplish good that day, and after we had settled (as best we could) on the plan, then to turn aside to commit all to God.

O! how could I pray, with my head and heart so full? And so it is at this writing, my tears bedew my paper. I go back to my work.

Bro. Dupuy was not by any means a boisterous preacher, but an earnest preacher. I do not know that he ever preached from manuscript, but sometimes from very short notes, having his sermons very systematically arranged. He delivered his sermons without embarrassment to himself or the congregation. His manner in the pulpit was earnest and very pleasant, not tedious; the usual length of his sermons being from fifty to sixty minutes. His doctrinal views were sound, as a Baptist; and while he was not in the habit of preaching what is popularly called doctrinal sermons, yet, if necessary, he would not shy to declare the whole counsel of God on any given subject.

As a man, he was inoffensive, kind, and very social. As a citizen, he was a peaceable, quiet, law-abiding citizen. As a Christian, he was devoutly prayerful and pious. As a church member (though he was baptized in his seventeenth year), the writer does not suppose there was ever aught of complaint whispered against him. As to his popularity as a minister, it was almost unbounded; he was one of the ministers of whom all men spoke well. As a father and husband, he was kind, attentive and affectionate, if possible, almost to a fault.

I will here give an extract from a letter written to me by a deacon of the church in Water Valley: "Bro. Dupuy commenced the pastorate of the church in 1858, or '60; he was pastor seven or eight years; he preached the love of God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ faithfully. He preached in season and out of season; in the church house, and out of it, wherever he could get a congregation. He was truly a missionary of the Lord Jesus Christ, beloved by all who knew him. * * * He was faithful in attendance at the weekly prayer meeting. The night before he died, he was present with us." Little perhaps did he the night before he died, he was present with us. He was faithful in attendance at the weekly prayer meeting. The night before he died, he was present with us.

The Board resolved that we must pay that debt and provide for the current expenses of the present year. To do this three things were necessary: first, to reduce temporarily, the number of Missionaries; secondly, to decline making any new appointments until we were in a better financial condition, and thirdly to increase the amount of collections.

Some of the points aided by the Board had become self-sustaining, and needed no further help; two of our Missionaries desired to prosecute their studies at the College, and so resigned their work, and the commissions of others had expired on the 1st of July before, and the Board declined to renew. This reduction—while much to be regretted—was made without any material damage—except in one or two places—to work. For three months—from the 1st of October to the 1st of January—Bro. Hamberlin and the

Whitfield Dupuy was a profoundly pious man, and a true Christian, living and reigning, the Divine life of his thoughts, and a great man, who we can but feel that those who know such a man, will love him most, and so it will be with those who know him. May we all be such as he.

O. S. Young.

We are the following from the 5th Annual Report of the State Mission Board presented to the Convention:

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NEW APPOINTMENTS.

At the January meeting of the Board our financial condition had so much improved, we felt it would be safe to enlarge our work. Applications for aid were presented from Jaffeeville, in Yazoo Association, Wagon, in the Yazoo Association, Greenville, on the Mississippi river, and Baton Rouge, in East Louisiana. The Board likewise resolved to send an additional Missionary to the Yazoo Association, to occupy the field on the Yazoo river, where brethren Lattimore and Bailey had labored, and which had been left desolate by the return of those brethren to Clinton to complete their studies at the College. A suitable man, however, could not be found to take this very promising and fearfully destitute field.

Other inviting points for missionary labor, both in the Mississippi bottom and elsewhere, were brought to the attention of the Board, but the lack of suitable men for missionary prevented appointments being made.

The change may or may not have been a wise one; it is not for us to say. We do not doubt but that wiser and better brethren could have been found, and who would have done more and better work than we have been able to accomplish. There may be wiser and better Scriptural plans for doing missionary work than those adopted heretofore by the Convention, and carried out, or at least attempted to be carried out, by the Board. If so, we beseech those brethren who think there are—our Board, and we doubt not, this whole Convention will be heartily in favor of adopting them. But let the time in mind that it is not theories we want, however beautiful those theories may appear on paper, nor theories requiring for their practice a condition of society, and such a development of broad Christian culture, enlarged Christian benevolence, and consecration as are to be found among but few pastors and churches throughout the world, and perhaps among none within the limits of this Convention. But we want a plan or plans that have been tested, and the superiority of which has been fully and undeniably demonstrated. And until such a plan can be found, we seriously the wisdom of either destroying our present plan, even defective as it may be, or of throwing obstacles in the way of those charged with the responsibility of its prosecution.

This much we have thought it proper to say in the beginning of our Report, upon a subject which has, during the past year, elicited considerable discussion, and which is now engaging the serious thought of some of the brethren of this Convention.

THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE BOARD.

At the first meeting of the present Board held at Oxford in September, 1877, we found a debt against the Board of \$1,377.38, and due the Missionaries for services rendered during the Conventional year ending June 30th, 1877. The creation of this debt was on account, first, of the large appropriations made by the Board for that year—eleven Missionaries having been appointed—and secondly, to the partial failure of the health of the Corresponding Secretary.

Bro. Hamberlin had labored for the denomination, were needing the money due them, and some were suffering from our inability to meet our obligations to them. This debt was an incubus, and unless removed, would greatly cripple our work for the future.

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greatly encouraged. He has labored twelve days; traveled one hundred and ninety-eight miles; preached twelve sermons; held one prayer meeting; made forty-eight religious visits; received by letter one; delivered five Sunday school addresses.

Rev. E. A. Taylor is our Missionary at Greenville, on the Mississippi river, the largest and most important town on the river, between Vicksburg and Memphis. A few years ago, very small church was constructed at Greenville, having no house of worship, and having been most of the time without preaching; the church had made little if any progress. When our Missionary began work there, in May last, he found only five members. The church now numbers twenty-five. They maintain a weekly prayer meeting and Sunday school, and expect, at an early day, to commence building a house of worship. The Board pays Bro. Taylor \$40 per month. A part of this amount we expect to collect from his field. He has labored forty-seven days; traveled one hundred and fifty miles; preached eleven sermons; made twenty-eight religious visits; baptized ten; baptized by others in connection with his labors fifteen; received by letter ten; organized one Sunday school.

YAZOO RIVER MISSION.

Rev. T. J. Bailey, our Missionary, gave up his work on the Yazoo river, and returned to College the 1st of last October. The Board paid him \$25 per month. He labored three months, had several awaiting baptism when he was taken sick, and did not again return to his work, but resigned for the purpose of returning to College. The field requires an efficient man, and one who will live permanently among the people.

THE COAST.

The health of our coast Missionary, Eld. J. B. Hamberlin, failed last summer, shortly after the adjournment of the Convention, and for two months he was forced to give up his work and abandon his field. Returning, with recuperated strength, he entered again upon his labors the 1st of October last, since which time he has presented, with his accustomed earnestness and success, his Missionary work. No new churches have been constituted on the coast the past year, the Missionary—preaching to six congregations—having no time to open up new fields.

We now have churches in six out of the eight towns along our coast, and in three of those towns we have good and attractive houses of worship, the value of which is about \$6,000. Every cent of this large amount has been collected on the field, and to their honor be it said, about one-half was contributed by three noble and liberal-hearted brethren, two of whom were baptized by our Missionary.

Another Missionary, Rev. T. J. Rowan, has been added to the Coast Mission. Thus reinforced, we confidently look for still larger harvests from this once barren, but now fruitful field.

Bro. Rowan is employed for his entire time at a salary of \$40 per month. He began work on the 1st of May, and has labored sixty-one days; traveled one thousand forty-two miles; preached thirty-four sermons; attended two prayer meetings; and made thirty-six religious visits.

Bro. Hamberlin's salary has been \$100 per month, the Board being responsible to him for two-thirds of that amount, he to collect the other from his field.

Perhaps no Missionary work ever undertaken by the Baptists of Mississippi has proved a grander success than has our Coast Mission.

For the information and encouragement of the Convention, and all others interested in the work of Home Evangelization, it may be well to give a summary of our Coast Mission work, including the results accomplished during the four years our Missionary has labored in that field. And let it be remembered, that the people generally along the coast are very poor, and that the great majority of them have known little or nothing of any other religion than that of Romanism.

The following is the work done: 1,398 days of service; 15,081 miles traveled; 892 sermons preached; 61 prayer meetings held; 2,098 religious visits made; 139 addresses delivered; 1,052 official letters written; 25,043 pages of tracts, 39 Bibles and Testaments distributed, and 215 subscribers to religious papers secured. So much for the work done, and now for the results: 38 baptized; 34 received by letter; 5 restored to church fellowship; 1 church reorganized, and 6 new churches constituted, containing a membership of 191; 7 Sunday schools organized, with 109 officers, teachers, and scholars. The following

sums of money have been raised on the field: For Mississippi College, \$12 00; for the State Convention, \$1 15; for Foreign Missions, \$35 00; for Ministerial Education, \$144 00; for personal services, \$1,014 00; for other ministers, \$355 00; for State Mission Board, \$471 20; for current expenses, \$574 80; for three church buildings, \$5,531 73; for Sunday schools, \$441 00; for Gulf Coast Association, \$28 00; total amount collected during four years, \$9,341 60.

Steps are being taken to build two other houses of worship, at Vicksburg and at the Gulf Coast Association. It is proposed to build two more, and perhaps three, at these churches will be entirely self-sustaining another year. As soon as a good house of worship has been secured by each of these churches they will all be self-sustaining.

Not the least important work accomplished in our coast is the formation of the Gulf Coast Baptist Association, composed of the churches of Mobile, Mississippi Coast, and of New Orleans. The bringing together, into an Association, the Baptist churches of these two chief cities of the South-west (isolated as they are from the denomination) of their respective States, is, in the opinion of your Board, a great blessing to the churches composing the Association, and we especially promote the work of Baptist Evangelization in the great city of New Orleans. The formation of this important Association was rendered possible by the establishment of our Coast churches, and was brought about largely through the influence of our Missionary.

Thus much God has enabled us to do, and these are some of the fruits we have been permitted to gather already from this inviting field of Missionary labor.

T. J. Walne, Corresponding Secretary, has labored 395 days; traveled 8,102 miles; preached 212 sermons; delivered 100 Missionary addresses; attended 50 prayer meetings; made 1,000 religious visits; received by letter 10; organized 10 Sunday schools; conducted 10 prayer meetings; and made 10 religious visits.

THE SECRETARY WOULD HAVE DEVOTED much more of his time to Evangelistic work if it had not been for the large debt resting upon the Board at the beginning of the year, and which had to be provided for. Besides experience had taught us that it would be unsafe to rely upon the churches (however earnestly appealed to they might be) to collect and forward to the Board the funds needed to pay the salaries of Missionaries then in the field. It was only when we had good reason for believing that we would be able to meet all our obligations, that Bro. Walne felt at liberty to accept the earnest invitation of churches to hold meetings with them. Most of the time during the last quarter has been given to evangelistic labor. Several meetings, however, had been previously conducted by him.

INDICATION.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, LINCOLN COUNTY.

This is to certify that Joel H. Clark was arrested by a Deputy Sheriff of this county, in the month of December, 1877, under the following circumstances: I was in receipt of a letter from the Sheriff of Tensas parish, in Louisiana, giving a description of an individual of that parish, who had been expelled the school fund of that parish and escaped, with a request to be on the lookout and arrest him if he came into my county. The description given particularly and minutely described Mr. Clark, even to his clothing, a defect of vision, etc., giving a description of spectacles found on the person of Mr. Clark. He was a stranger to me, and, sitting so specifically the description of the Louisiana fugitive, I felt that I had a duty to perform. I immediately telegraphed to the Sheriff of Tensas parish, who came and saw him, and said he was not the man, whereupon he was discharged.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Clark was thus compelled to suffer arrest and detention, and it is due to his misfortune in so closely resembling in his personal appearance, the absconding official of Louisiana. I have subsequently learned that Mr. Clark is a gentleman of respectability and standing, and a Christian of exemplary character.

Sheriff, Lincoln Co., A. O. Cox, BROOKHAVEN, MISS., July 12, 1878. [We know Bro. Clark, and he is above reproach.—Ed.]

